

## PREFACE

This is the fifth edition of the new *Technical and Software Bulletin*, and may still require some introduction. The British Geomorphological Research Group (BGRG) published a *Technical Bulletin* series, through Geobooks in Norwich, which provided a reasonably priced forum for technical papers. Quite separately the BGRG produces the widely read and highly respected journal *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* under the editorship of Professor Mike Kirkby in Leeds, which is published by John Wiley and Sons Ltd. Thirdly, it became apparent that there is a rapidly increasing usage of computers in general, and numerical modelling techniques in particular, within the subject and that, in common with other disciplines, a medium of exchange for these developments could serve a useful role within the field.

These various factors came together four years ago and it was agreed by the parties involved that a new *Technical and Software Bulletin* should be established which would continue to produce text-based papers but with the same format and rigorous peer-refereeing procedures which are used in the main *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* journal. This *Technical and Software Bulletin* also includes microcomputer software disks which provide computerized models, datasets and digital support for papers in the *Bulletin* and in the main journal; this format is detailed in the following section. Finally, Wiley agreed to publish the new *Bulletin* as an annual supplement to the main journal. Following last year's edition, this issue of the *Technical and Software Bulletin* not only continues with the technical papers, software-related papers and reference section based, in part, on the 1996 editions of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* but also continues the new digital mapping section.

It is apparent that the potential for the publication and dissemination of digital material is recognized in the research community. The editorial office has received software from around the world and we have been able to publish spreadsheet-based material, some code, a number of reference and datasets and digital maps. In addition, the BGRG has a new Wiley digital journal entitled *Glacial Geology and Geomorphology* edited by Brian Whalley which is distributed through the Internet and a greatly expanded WWW home page. At the time of going to press we remain hopeful that the software in this edition will also be made available through the Wiley web site.

My thanks are extended to all those who have helped: Mike Kirkby for encouragement throughout the process, David Thomas in Sheffield who is Chair of the BGRG Publication Committee, and Helen Bailey at Wiley for recognizing the potential of these new developments, and the referees and reviewers who have helped this year.

Finally, the next edition of *Technical and Software Bulletin* will be published late next year on both the Internet and on paper. This is a tremendous opportunity to expand our software content as we are freed from the space restrictions of our disks. Please contact me with any new ideas which could utilize this capability. Please also note that the BGRG is considering whether the technical papers and software should be merged into the main Journal so that the *Bulletin* would lose its independent identity. Contact Mike Kirkby, David Thomas or myself if you have views on this proposal.

With all best wishes.

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

The editor calls for manuscript papers for the *Technical and Software Bulletin*. In line with policy, the *Bulletin* will publish descriptions of a technique (or techniques) not previously described or reviewed in the literature, and that makes a significant contribution to the science of geomorphology. The *Bulletin* is published in the same format as *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* and contributions should therefore, be around 15 published pages in length, although a small number of longer contributions will be published in each edition. Authors who may wish to combine a paper with a software model or dataset are encouraged to develop their work within any of the common applications and to submit draft copies at an early stage.

All papers, models and datasets will be subject to full review and we anticipate that all papers received before February 1998 and accepted for publication will appear in the 1998 edition of the *Bulletin*. The editor invites submissions in the following categories.

### Section I: Technical papers

Original papers for the text-only section which are of a technical or purely analytical nature.

### Section II: Software

Original papers or computer-based models or datasets which may or may not support text-only papers appearing in 1997 editions of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. We shall be writing to all such published authors to invite submissions and including notes on format and style.

### Section III: GIS and mapping

Original and distributable geomorphological datasets.

### Section IV: Reference

The Bibliography is automatically compiled from the main journal, and the BGRG Publications are rightly the business of the Chair of the Publications Committee. However, corrections, additions and deletions from the e-mail and Internet listings, details of software, services and suppliers for the S<sup>4</sup> listings, and details of new software and hardware or equipment for review are all invited.

Material, which will be acknowledged, should be sent to the editorial office address inside the front cover of this *Bulletin*.

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